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The Basis of Italy's Policy in the European War.

A wireless dispatch from Rome to The Tribune, published in yesterday's issue, announced that the death of the Marquis di San Giuliano would have no appreciable effect on Italy's foreign policy. As a prominent Italian statesman put it, this policy "stands on a rock basis constituted by her [Italy's] fight for her reputation before the world and her vital interests." That is a pretty complete account of the motives behind Italian diplomacy—motives which Germany failed to take sufficiently into account when she tried to tie up Italy's fortunes irrevocably with those of the other two members of the Triple Alliance.

The German Foreign Office always took Italy's connection with the Triple Alliance too lightly. Count von Bülow's jesting epigram about Italy's relations to her two allies has become historical. Back in 1902, when he was Imperial Chancellor, he said in the Reichstag: "The Dreikönig does not exclude good relations on the part of its members with the other powers. I do not consider it justified that recently a small section of the German press—I may say a very small section—has manifested considerable uneasiness over French advances to Italy. In a happy marriage the husband must not immediately get red in the face if his wife dances an innocent extra turn with somebody else. The main thing is that she doesn't elope, and she will not elope if she is best off with him."

It was this sort of overconfidence in the theory that Italy was only engaging in a harmless flirtation with outside powers which wrecked the Triple Alliance. Italy was not merely flirting. She was pursuing with intense seriousness the programme which Rome now aptly describes as "a fight for her reputation before the world and her vital interests."

Italy was an interested and active member of the Triple Alliance in Crispien's time because France had annexed Tunis and seemed to stand in the way of Italian expansion on the south shore of the Mediterranean. Crispien welcomed an association with Germany and Austria-Hungary, those powers having no ambitions in Northern Africa conflicting with her own. She was pleased with the Triple Alliance because she felt better off inside it than outside it. To keep her satisfied it should have been the aim of German diplomacy to nurse the irritation against France over Tunis and to hold out the hope of a final acquisition by Italy of all that coveted part of Africa lying nearest to Sicily.

But the diplomats at Berlin did not take the situation seriously enough. They did nothing to meet the Italian desire to acquire territory in Northern Africa, and treated as a mere "extra turn" the renewal of friendly relations with France on the basis of Italian support for French designs in Morocco and French support of Italy's designs against Turkey in Tripoli.

Italy's seizure of Tripoli was a deadly blow struck at the Triple Alliance. It set one partner at odds with Turkey, the special protégé of Germany, and aroused Austria-Hungary's antagonism on the ground that war with Turkey might lead to an Italian occupation of Albania. Bernhardi complained in his book that shortsighted diplomacy had permitted a divorce of Italy's interests from those of Germany and Austria-Hungary. He said that Germany should have made war on France rather than allow the annexation of Tunis to go through. Such a war would in his opinion have given a new lease of life to the Triple Alliance. He also denounced the folly of having permitted Italy to despoil Turkey with the approval of France and Great Britain.

Although the Triple Alliance was renewed last year, Italy's subscription to it did not create undue confidence in Berlin and Vienna, since even there the truth was at last partially realized that Italy would pursue her own aims and that these did not harmonize with those of her partners. She had not actually "eloped," as von Bülow put it, but was ready to seek a separation if a European crisis should come along. The results of the Balkan war had estranged her more than ever from Austria-Hungary and brought her national policy more than ever into conformity with the plans of the Triple Entente. Austria-Hungary did not even consult her when preparing the overbearing ultimatum to Serbia, because the Foreign Office in Vienna knew perfectly well that it would get no diplomatic support from Rome for the harsh terms sought to be imposed on Serbia.

Italy's national aims inclined it to break definitely with the Triple Alliance and to seek the continuing support of France and Great Britain. If the government at Rome keeps these national

ends in view it will undoubtedly prepare to profit at the end of the war in the rearrangement of the balance of power which must then take place. The situation has been so far a difficult one, especially so in view of Italy's evident unpreparedness for war on a large scale. Popular pressure is now strong in favor of co-operation with the Allies and the recovery by force from Austria of the provinces of Trentino and Trieste, and so brilliant an opportunity to carry out the programme of the Irredentists might not present itself again in fifty years.

Neutrality may therefore be assumed to be a convenient compromise for immediate purposes only. If Italy continues to follow the policy described in Rome as "standing on the rock basis of her fight for her reputation before the world and her vital interests"—that is, Irredentism and national expansion—the force of circumstances will probably drive her ere long to abandon neutrality for co-operation with the Triple Entente in a readjustment of power on the Adriatic and in the Mediterranean region generally.

The Registration Figures.

It is natural that the registration for Manhattan should fall off by comparison with last year and the years preceding. More and more what is now New York County is being given over to business uses, to the exclusion of residences. Large sections of downtown Manhattan which a few years ago produced a heavy vote now are mostly loft and manufacturing districts.

That, however, does not explain the fact that the registration total in The Bronx was only 1,500 above last year's, in Brooklyn less than 500 above, in Queens only 1,300 above. These are counties in which population is growing—in Queens and The Bronx very rapidly. The unavoidable conclusion is that the voters are not taking a great deal of interest in this campaign. It may be that the war dominates the public mind to the exclusion of cares about government. The fact remains that thousands of persons eligible to vote have voluntarily failed to qualify themselves to do so.

Out of the Public's Pocket.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has much justification for its campaign to have the so-called full crew law repealed by the next Legislature. This statute costs this line more than \$1,000,000 a year for the employment of men whose services the officials consider unnecessary to the operation of the road or to the safety of passengers. The other railroads in the state bear a like burden.

The money thus spent would contribute much more to safety if it were spent in improving roadbed and rolling stock and removing grade crossings. All railroads are being hard hit by existing financial conditions, so that they are endeavoring to raise freight and passenger rates. It seems foolish to compel by law a huge expenditure annually the wisdom of which is doubtful, when the money to pay for it must come so directly out of the public's pocket.

Mr. Wilson Says a Few Kind Words for Himself.

In writing to Mr. Underwood, President Wilson was not deterred by any fear of self-praise. As the public knows, Congress has been merely his rubber stamp and when he lands what was done at the Capitol he lauds what was conceived and formulated at the White House. Any tribute on his part to the high merit of the legislation of Congress is therefore a tribute to himself.

Summed up by its taskmaster, the great work of Congress was that it "set business free." If business has been "set free" it has had to pay dearly for that freedom. The European war has intervened to make the tariff reductions of the Underwood bill abortive. Yet business was pretty hard hit before the European powers suspended industry and set to fighting. The Clayton act may have aimed at breaking down monopoly, but it constituted two classes of privileged violators of the prohibitions against conspiracy to restrain competition, and it also has confused all the sound standards for the application of the anti-trust law which the courts have laboriously established.

His foreign policy, too, the President says, has "set business free." But so far as may be judged from its application in Mexico, it has only fomented revolution and encouraged the disorderly elements there to make free with American interests and investments.

The feature of Mr. Wilson's letter which most opens it to criticism is its tendency to translate laws into results and take for granted that a bill passed is the same thing as a reform achieved. He speaks of the new tariff, for instance, as if it had already demonstrated its ability to lower prices and curb monopoly. Nothing could be further from the fact. The brief operation of the law up to the outbreak of the European war showed no influence on prices and no stimulation of the small producer that the consumer could detect. To-day the country is operating under a system of protection more complete than anything we have known since the days of the Jeffersonian embargo. War has practically eliminated foreign competition and set the working of the new tariff at naught.

The same holds true of the President's eulogy of the currency act and the Clayton act. He speaks of these untried statutes as if they had already created a "democracy of credit" and new fields "of fresh individual endeavor." The currency act, for all its compromises, may well improve our currency system; that it will produce anything remotely resembling a "democracy of credit" is sheer imagination, the pursuit of a phrase. As for the Clayton bill, the only fields of "fresh individual endeavor" which it is likely to open are those of litigation.

Against the President's undue haste, the haste of a theorist, it is interesting to set the calm words of Mr. Underwood, an old observer of laws and their uses, in his reply to Mr. Wilson's letter:

We cannot expect that the reforms inaugurated by your administration will immediately demonstrate their worth. After a law is on the statute books it takes months and often years before the sentiment of the country adjusts itself to the new conditions, but I feel sure that time will prove that the legislation which has been enacted at this Congress is the beginning of a new life for our nation.

Mr. Underwood brings sharply to mind the fact that while fine phrases are excellent reading, hard, practical results are better stuff on which to judge a party or an administration. For those results the voters must wait, and while waiting is it anything more than common sense to ask Mr. Wilson and his further policies to wait with them?

The Conning Tower

TO ADVERTISERS:

Of types The Tribune has no lack.

You have not yet heard half.

We have some 12-pt. Tudor Black And 12-point Copygraph.

This, as you may have read, is the Year of the Big Upset. For that reason we feel that coal will be cheaper this winter. "We know that putting up the price of coal," we seem to hear the dealers saying, "means great hardship for those who are not actually rich, so we have decided—"

"No," the janitor will say on Christmas Eve, 1914. "I cannot accept the \$5. My wages as janitor compensate me for all the work I do; and you, as tenant, pay them. There is no reason why you should pay more."

"The Year of the Big Upset."

WHY SUSPECT US OF LEISURE?

Sir: The Dulcinea Home for Old Ladies is situated at Marshall, Michigan. This has barrels of cumulated possibilities, but I'm too busy. Do it yourself. J. W. G.

Can it be that Cervantes inspired Tad? "It is my belief," appears in "Don Quixote," "that either you are joking, or else this gentleman has empty lodgings in his head."

RAP! RAP!

Sir: I called on Dulcinea yesterday, but there was no body home. AMYAE.

And this is from "The Temple Dancing Girl," by Laurence Hope, who may never have heard of the Braves:

"Yet make it not too long, nor too intense My thirst, lest I should crack beneath the strain; And the worn nerves, and overwheeled sense Enjoy not what they spent themselves to gain."

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPEY.

October 17—To the city, and got my velocipede, and rode through the town on it, and saw another green tie in a haberdasher's window; and I went into the shop, and said, I want a tie like that, nor asked the cost of it; but gave the clerk \$5, and he did give me back \$2. But it is the finest tie ever I had. To the playhouse in the afternoon and saw five plays; but "The Cat and the Chub" was the only one which, to my thought, had aught of interest in it; and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's "The Goal" I deemed a futile bit of writing. But Mr. H. Blinn's acting was full of merit, as ever it is. Home upon my velocipede, and found it no great sport to ride against the coming darkness. I must buy a lamp, that motorists may see me ere they destroy me. Found C. Riegleman the barrister and Lillian for dinner, which I did have a great lot of, and we did discuss the great problems of the day, wherein Charles is old-fashioned, and Lillian strong in the belief of women's mental equality with man. As for me, I find little difference.

18—To the court upon my bicycle, and played until dark, and had to hasten home again and found there R. Gillmore the tale-writer. To the office all evening, and thence home; where I did finish Temple Thurston's "Achievement" and found little good in the tale; and the habit he hath of making generalities about men and women, as who should say, Mark you, I know, or, Look you, this is the truth gained after much suffering of mine, giveth me a sharp ache.

19—All the day at my office. And all the evening too. Yet did no great work and did little more than clear the litter from my desk.

Added entry to the anti-climax stakes, from a letter received by D. G. T. concerning: "Let me know if you have these two books—The Orations of Demosthenes and After-dinner Speeches by Chauncey Depew."

There is this about registration figures: they always cheer all the candidates and managers, and keep a few orators out in the uncovered atmosphere.

The Special Newspaper Party Abroad.

[Margaret E. Tierney in the Lawrence Telegram.] Now our guide went about with a sigh being German, he was held as a spy. He had to report at headquarters frequently or be arrested and pay the penalty. Much spare time at the Savoy was spent watching which liners to war would be sent; When lo! and behold! the Cymric was taken and worried looks could not be mistaken. For nine days at least some must pay. Their own bills, and possibly a longer stay. Unless on the company's boat they sailed. To use their "paid passage" they would fail.

In London some left the party and went on to Shakespeare's home and Stratford-on-Avon. The cleanliness of this place so renowned. Obtained it the name of "Spotless Town." Then on to quaint Chester we went in a whirl. Here we separated from the Southern girls. From Chester to Dublin I had to go. While Isabel left for friends in Glasgow. [IRELAND, NEXT AND LAST (APPLAUSE) STOP.]

There is no knowing what might have been said in these three lines if Miss Marguerite C. Walz didn't teach modern dances over in Philadelphia.

"Nevertheless," madwags A. E. C. "I must admit that King George's Scotch troops appear to be hauldin' their Aisne."

WELL, SUPPOSE IT WOULD?

[From the Las Cruces, N. M., Board of Trade.] The Elephant Butte reservoir will be 45 miles long and 13 miles wide, with a maximum depth of 135 feet and an average depth of 65 feet. The capacity will be 862,200,000,000 gallons of water. This water if spread out one foot deep would cover 4,285 square miles, or an area of over twice that of the State of Delaware. This water would fill a pipe four feet in diameter 1,734,700 miles long, or nearly seventy times around the world.

A New Haven shoe concern makes the Maxxie Tie, which, it advertises, "is worn by the who knows" in place of pumps."

PRESIDENT OF THE CONTRIB'S SIMPLE DECLARATION.

Sir: If I sent you a contribution would my name get me in the Tower? PHILADELPHIA.

When old Arthur Guiterman observed that Sunday's weather was regal, not a contrib stooped to comment on the reign of Monday morning.

METEOROLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS.

Now that we're on this climatical topic—Hasn't October been lusciously tropic?

Yes; and except for some lightningful, thunderful Rits, wasn't yesterday perfectly wonderful?

E. P. A.



My! I wish I were there!

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

DEMOCRATIC WAR TAXES

An Unnecessary Blow to the North Which Should Help the South.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: President Wilson has stretched the present session of Congress like a rubber band, which, when released, flies off and hits somebody in the eye.

Except at New York and eight other Sub-Treasury cities and Washington, disbursing officers of the United States checked out to some extent such deposits of public money as were made with banks. The act of March 4, 1907, authorized deposits of customs receipts in national banks. Secretary Cortelyou then directed every collector of customs, except at Sub-Treasury cities and Washington, to make such deposits. To remove the discrimination against the ten principal cities of the United States, I went to Washington and stayed there fifteen months, incessantly urging that the law should be carried out. In respect to these cities it was a dead letter during two years of Roosevelt's administration and the whole of Taft's administration, notwithstanding my constant agitation.

Finally, Secretary Franklin MacVeagh, a prince of procrastinators, signed the necessary order on March 3, 1913. It arrived in New York the next day, and on March 5, under the present administration, customs receipts were deposited with New York banks for the first time since Polk's administration, when depositing public money in banks was made a felony.

At present all kinds of government receipts are deposited in banks, and public deposits are checked out of all the regular depository banks. Inconvenience, distress and confusion have resulted from withdrawing public deposits, but not from checking them out. Therefore some \$75,000,000 of public deposits in national banks are available. Besides this good money, the United States Treasurer and disbursing officers have about \$100,000,000 to their credit in the Treasury. If all these funds, together with the current receipts of the government, are not sufficient to meet its current expenses, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized by the act of June 13, 1898, to borrow from time to time, at a rate of interest not exceeding 3 per cent per annum, such sums as in his judgment may be necessary, and to issue certificates of deposit, provided their amount shall at no time exceed \$100,000,000. In addition, the Secretary is authorized to issue bonds of the United States and issue Panama bonds therefor at the same rate. Nominally he has \$315,000,000 at his disposal over and above current receipts. Certainly Secretary McAdoo ought to get through somehow on that till the next session without new taxes. JAMES C. HALLOCK, 24 Seventh av., Brooklyn, Oct. 19, 1914.

THE HOPKINSON SMITH PLEA

A National Remonstrance Against Hague Violations Is Urged.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I want to endorse the petition to the President by Hopkins Smith and others regarding the dropping of bombs upon non-combatants.

Upon this petition from his fellow countrymen surely the President can act, and be strictly within the bounds of neutrality; if not, let Congress do so; failing this, let a monster petition of remonstrance by American citizens be forwarded to the belligerents. Americans—some at personal sacrifice—are gladly giving to supply Belgian needs; but we do not forget that meantime Belgian money is being poured into German coffers to aid in repeating this same course with other nations. If, then, while opening our purses, we are not men enough to voice a national remonstrance, at least against violations of the Hague Convention, we are assuredly either fools or poltroons and deserve to be—as we undoubtedly are—the laughing stock of the Bernhards of the world, into whose hands we are playing.

E. E. ARMSTRONG, Washington, Oct. 18, 1914.

TREATIES WITH GERMANY

A Reader Doubts the Utility of Our Making Them.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: When we consider that the German government through its Chancellor declares that treaties are only scraps of paper, and are not binding unless the German government so desires, isn't it a waste of time for our Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, to be making new peace treaties with such a government? How are we to know when they cease to be binding?

Germany has thus far broken every treaty that stood in the way of her military machine, and there is no reason to suppose that she will respect Mr. Bryan's "scraps of paper" any more than she did Belgium's.

GEORGE WILSON, Newark, Oct. 19, 1914.

"WE IRISH SALUTE YOU!"

An Address of Welcome to the Germans When They Land at Cork.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In these days of John Bull's fear and trembling it will probably occur to Britons in the watches of the night that England's conduct to Ireland was foolish as well as criminal.

A prosperous, self-ruling Ireland, united in bonds of equality to England, would have a population of at least 30,000,000. Swallowing the medicine he has so long lashed out to others, may he get a full dose of it! May the Kiplinges, Carsons, Londonderrys and Cecilis, their braggart, slanderous tongues silenced in fear, have yet the experience of groveling to Germany for mercy!

German, we Irish salute you! We are with you to the last man, the little

renegades in our midst hardly counting as men. If you enter Ireland you will be received with open arms, reports to the contrary notwithstanding. Compared with John Bull's record of murderous infamy your record is white as driven snow. MARGUERITE A. COLEMAN, New York, Oct. 16, 1914.

A VOTER'S "PLACE OF STAY"

The Constitution vs. Tammany's Generous Phrase.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If the phrase "place of stay" inserted in Section 162 of the election law at the last session of the Legislature, means anything less than the term "residence," then the amendment is clearly unconstitutional.

Section 1 of Article 2 of the constitution provides: "Every male citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a citizen for ninety days, and an inhabitant of this state one year next preceding an election, and for the last four months a resident of the county, and for the last thirty days a resident of the election district in which he may offer his vote, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the election district of which he shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere."

The word resident as used in the constitution has been held in numerous cases to mean one's actual domicile, and not some place temporarily selected and arbitrarily called a residence. Matter of Newcomb, 192 N. Y. 238; People ex rel. Driscoll v. Bennett, 82 Misc. Rep. 671.

Even Mr. Voorhis, a State Superintendent of Elections, who certainly has been lax enough in the enforcement of the law, has construed the constitutional qualifications as follows: "In a decision of the Court of Appeals, reported at 192 New York, page 238, the whole question of domicile or residence is thoroughly discussed, and the view therein held has been uniformly followed in later decisions to the effect that to effect a domicile or residence there must be three coincident circumstances evident: First—Intention to abandon the domicile at residence of origin. Second—The intention to acquire a new domicile at residence. Third—Facts of material evidential significance to establish such intention."

"While the intention governs, the mere statement or declaration of intention is of little consequence, it being necessary to establish the intention by circumstances plainly indicated." (Rept. of 1911, pp. 88-89.) Unfortunately, Superintendent Voorhis has not followed out his own construction of the constitution, and before Election Day his deputies will follow ex-Senator John G. Sax's "place of stay" rule.

In a nutshell, the question is whether the Legislature may change the provision of the constitution, which has a well defined and definite meaning. To state the affirmative of such a proposition is to refuse the soundness of it. I predict that the amendment will be held unconstitutional. Unless there is a court decision very soon the damage will be done beyond repair, because the State Superintendent and his deputies will adopt the "place of stay" joker. W. CLEVELAND RUNYON, New York, Oct. 18, 1914.